

names are attached in MS. in a very old hand. "Good King Harry" occurs for the first time in Gerard, who says it was so called in Cambridgeshire (Johnson's edit. 1633, p. 329). *Malus Henricus* seems to have been *Lathræa squamaria*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEREIS BILINEATA.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

Weymouth, May 15, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to draw your attention to a fact I have not seen noticed in print. It is, that *Nereis bilineata* constructs a tube for its domicile. Its usual habitat is the upper coils of any dead whelk that may have been selected by a *Pagurus* for its domicile. This Annelid is well known to the fishermen here, and by whom it is much used as a killing bait for whiting. I was not aware of the fact of its constructing a tube for itself until lately, when, on breaking off the top coils, I found that the worm had constructed a tube, with which it had lined its lodgings. The tube is perfectly white, rather strong, and not attached to the whelk shell.

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,

WILLIAM THOMPSON.

On a New Species of *Thalassidroma*.

By GEORGE ROBERT GRAY, F.L.S. & F.Z.S.

A specimen of a Stormy Petrel, from the north-west coast of America, which has lately been kindly presented to the British Museum by Miss Hornby, differs from all those that I am acquainted with.

In form it agrees best with *Thalassidroma furcata*, but the coloration differs much in several particulars. Front, cheeks, throat, collar round the hind part of the neck, breast and abdomen pure white; crown, hind head, a broad band in front of neck, bend of wing and lesser wing-coverts sooty grey; upper part of back grey; lower part of back and tail ashy grey; greater wing-coverts brownish grey; tertiaries and quills deep black.

Total length, $8\frac{1}{4}$ " ; bill from gape, $10\frac{1}{2}$ " ; from front, $8\frac{1}{2}$ " ; tail (outer feather), $3\frac{3}{4}$ " ; tarsus, 1" ; middle toe, 1".

I propose to give this species the appellation of *Thalassidroma Hornbyi*, after Admiral Hornby, who obtained it during his command on the Pacific station, where he collected many interesting animals for his brother-in-law, the late President of this Society.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.*, May 10, 1853.

On the Eggs of *Otogyps* and *Prosthemadera*.

By H. F. WALTER, Esq.

Mr. H. F. Walter exhibited specimens of the eggs of *Otogyps* and *Prosthemadera novæ seelandiæ* from his own collection.

The egg of *Otogyps* was obtained by Herr Ludwig Parreys of

Vienna from North Africa, and will therefore be that of *O. nubicus* (H. Smith; Bp. Consp. p. 10), if that species is really distinct from the southern *O. auricularis*. The long diameter of this egg is 3·9, the short diameter 2·8 inches.

The egg of the Parson-bird or Tui, *Prosthemadera novæ seelandiæ* (Gm.), was taken in New Zealand in 1852 by Dr. White. Its colouring is somewhat different from that of the other Honey-eaters with which we are acquainted, not presenting the usual rich red ground-colour which is the general characteristic of the eggs of that family of birds. The long diameter of this egg is 1·0, the short diameter 0·75 inch.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.*

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR MAY 1855.

Chiswick.—May 1. Densely clouded; dry haze; clear. 2. Clear; sharp frost at night. 3. Fine; densely overcast. 4. Cloudy and cold; frosty. 5. Excessively dry air, with bright sun. 6. Fine. 7. Fine; overcast; boisterous at night. 8. Cloudy; clear, with sharp frost at night. 9. Fine; rain at night. 10. Cloudy. 11. Cloudy and fine; thunder-storm in afternoon; clear. 12. Cloudy and cold; very clear; frosty. 13. Overcast; boisterous, with heavy rain at night. 14. Cloudy. 15. Cloudy; rain. 16. Cloudy; clear and frosty at night. 17—19. Very fine. 20. Foggy; very fine. 21. Overcast. 22. Cloudy. 23—25. Fine. 26. Very fine; hot and dry. 27. Slight haze; cloudy; rain. 28. Rain. 29. Cloudy; showery. 30. Cold showers. 31. Rain.

Mean temperature of the month	48°·88
Mean temperature of May 1854	50·07
Mean temperature of May for the last twenty-nine years ...	53·72
Average amount of rain in May	1·85 inch.

Boston.—May 1. Cloudy. 2. Fine. 3. Cloudy; rain and snow P.M. 4—6. Cloudy. 7. Cloudy; rain A.M. and P.M. 8. Cloudy; rain, hail and snow P.M. 9. Cloudy. 10. Cloudy; rain A.M. and P.M. 11. Cloudy; rain P.M. 12. Fine. 13. Cloudy; rain P.M. 14. Cloudy. 15. Cloudy; rain A.M. 16, 17. Cloudy; rain P.M. 18—20. Cloudy. 21. Cloudy; rain A.M. and P.M. 22. Cloudy. 23—28. Fine. 29—31. Cloudy; rain A.M. and P.M.

Sandwich Manse, Orkney.—May 1. Cloudy A.M.; clear, fine P.M. 2. Drizzle A.M.; showers P.M. 3. Hail-showers A.M. and P.M. 4. Cloudy A.M.; clear P.M. 5. Cloudy A.M.; rain P.M. 6. Sleet-showers A.M. and P.M. 7, 8. Sleet-showers A.M.; cloudy P.M. 9. Hail, frost A.M.; clear P.M. 10. Bright A.M.; cloudy P.M. 11. Clear A.M. and P.M. 12, 13. Bright A.M.; cloudy P.M. 14. Cloudy A.M.; clear P.M. 15. Showers A.M.; cloudy P.M. 16. Cloudy A.M.; showers P.M. 17. Bright A.M.; drops P.M. 18. Bright A.M.; cloudy P.M. 19. Showers A.M.; cloudy P.M. 20. Bright A.M.; clear, fine P.M. 21. Cloudy A.M. and P.M. 22. Small rain A.M. and P.M. 23. Small rain A.M.; clear, fine P.M. 24, 25. Hazy A.M. and P.M. 26. Drops A.M.; cloudy P.M. 27. Hazy A.M. and P.M. 28. Cloudy A.M. and P.M. 29. Bright A.M.; clear P.M. 30. Cloudy A.M. and P.M. 31. Clear A.M. and P.M.

This month has been remarkably cold, the mean temperature being lower than that of any May during the twenty-eight years of my observations,—4°·18 below the average, and the first half of it was only about the average temperature of March.

Mean temperature of May for twenty-eight previous years .	47°·99
Mean temperature of this month	43·81
Mean temperature of May 1854	48·39
Average quantity of rain in May for fourteen previous years	1·68 inch.